

Week Ending Friday, July 9, 1999

Statement on the Death of Karekin I
July 2, 1999

Hillary and I were saddened to learn of the death of His Holiness Karekin I, Catholicos of the Armenian Apostolic Church. I have sent my condolences to the Vicar General at the Holy See of Echmiadzin.

His Holiness was widely respected for his deep scholarship, his deep sense of principle, and his sincere devotion to the broadest possible ecumenical dialog. To all who followed his inspired leadership in Armenia, the United States, and around the world, I offer heartfelt sympathy and condolences on behalf of myself and the American people. All the members of the Armenian Apostolic Church are in our thoughts and our prayers.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Memorandum on the Federal Worker 2000 Presidential Initiative
July 2, 1999

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Subject: Federal Worker 2000 Presidential Initiative

Each year, Federal employees suffer over 160,000 injuries or illnesses in the course of their employment. The Federal Government's bill for medical treatment and wage loss compensation costs exceeds \$1.9 billion each year. Even more disturbing is the pain and suffering of employees and their families that is caused by these injuries and illnesses and the fact that many of such injuries and illnesses are preventable.

The Federal workforce is a valuable asset to our healthy economy. We need to do more to protect our dedicated public servants from preventable injuries and illnesses. From this

point forward, I want to make the safety and health of every Federal worker a central value in each operation performed in Federal workplaces. I ask all Federal agencies to help make Federal Government workplaces safe and productive. Furthermore, we need to ensure that, when injuries do occur, Federal employees are given the best possible care and are returned to work as quickly as possible.

To this end I direct the Secretary of Labor to lead an initiative focusing on the Federal workplace. This initiative will have a duration of 5 years, and will establish 3 measurable goals:

- reducing the overall occurrence of injuries by 3 percent per year, while improving the timeliness of reporting of injuries and illnesses by agencies to the Department of Labor by 5 percent per year;
- for those work sites with the highest rates of serious injuries, reducing the occurrence of such injuries by 10 percent per year; and
- reducing the rate of lost production days (i.e. the number of days employees spend away from work) by 2 percent per year.

I also direct the Secretary to report to me each year on the progress made to reduce work-related injuries and illnesses, to provide timely services, and to reduce the number of days injured workers are away from their jobs.

I am convinced that this new focus on safety and health in the Federal Government will result in fewer injured workers, significant cost reductions, and an enhanced ability to serve the American public.

William J. Clinton

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.